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N. E. FARMER.

From the American Agriculturist.

MULES FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

The great value of mules, for agricultural and economisal purposes, has long been known and generally acknowledged. By those who have given them a thorough trial, their decided superiority to horses is universally conceded.

In his best estate, this despised hybrid has not the fineness, symmetry, elegance, and commanding action and appearance of the well-bred horse; and in the New England States, where they were first introduced, to any extent, they were the offspring of such worthless progenitors on both sides, that it was no wonder they never became general favorites. They were first bred almost exclusively as an article of *commerce*. The market for them was found in the West India islands, where a just taste or discrimination did not exist. * * They were tolerated only as an article of profit, and when the markets, first in the West Indies, and afterward in the Southern States, were cut off, they were at once unceremoniously struck from the list of northern stock.

It is from a desire for the more general introduction of of this valuable animal on the farms throughout our Northern States, that I shall submit the following brief summary of facts in their favor. Not having much personal experience of their good qualities, I must draw somewhat from the experience of others. S. W. Pomeroy, Esq., of Massachusetts, wrote a prize essay on mules, in 1825, which is altogether the most comprehensive, yet condensed and practical article on the subject I have seen, and from this I shall take the liberty of making some extracts.

There is no doubt that the value of the mule, like that of every other animal, depends almost exclusively on that of his sire and dam. No good foal can be relied on, except from choice parents.

Gen. Washington had a Maltese jack sent him from Marseilles, by La Fayette, in 1787, which produced for him a valuable race of mules; and from him and a Spanish jennet, a present from the king of Spain, he bred Compound, a famous stock-getter. From these two jacks, were bred some of the best mules the country at that time afforded. General Washington used his best coach-mares for this purpose, and his judgment in this practice was shown by the result. After his decease, eight of his mules sold for upward of $1600. G. W. P. Custis, Esq., who inherited some of this stock, says: "As to my opinion of the value of mules, I shall always appear extravagant. I have scarce a horse on my estate for agricultural purposes, nor would I accept of one as a gift. Mules live longer and eat less; and by their strength, patient endurance of slender pasturage, privation, and hardship, are better suited to our use than any other animal could possibly be." This opinion is strongly corroborated by the report of a highly intelligent agricultural committee in South Carolina, in 1824; which said, "the annual expense of keeping a horse was equal to his value; that a horse at four years old, would not often bring more than his cost; that two mules could be raised at less expense than one horse; is fit for service earlier, and if of sufficient size, will perform as much labor; and if attended to when first put to work, his gait and habits may be formed to suit the owner."

Mr Pomeroy, who used them near Boston for 30 years, and to such an extent as to have had more labor performed by them probably than any person in New England, says:

"I am convinced the small breed of mules will consume less in proportion to the labor they are capable of performing, than the larger race, but I shall confine myself to the latter in my comparison, such as stand 14 1-2 to 16 hands, and are capable of performing any work a horse is usually put to. From repeated experiments, I found that three mules of this description, which were constantly at work, consumed about the same quantity of hay, and only one-fourth the provender which was given to two middling size coach-horses, only moderately worked. I am satisfied a large sized mule will not consume more than three-fifths to two-thirds the food to keep him in good order, that will be necessary for a horse performing the same labor.

"The expense of shoeing a mule the year round, does not exceed one-third that of the horse, his hoofs being harder, more horny, and so slow in their growth, that shoes require no removal, and hold on till worn out; and the wear, from the lightness of the animal, is much less.

"Mules have been lost by feeding on *cut* straw and corn *meal*; in no other instance have I known disease in them, except by inflammation of the intestines, caused by the grossest exposure to cold and wet, and excessive drinking of cold water, after severe labor, and while in a state of perspiration.

"The mule is more steady in his draught, and less likely to waste his strength than the horse, hence more suitable to work with oxen, and as he walks faster, will habituate them to a faster gait. In plowing among crops, his feet being small, and following each other so much more in a line, he seldom treads down the ridges or crops. The facility of instructing him to obey implicitly the voice of the driver, is astonishing. The best plowed tillage land I ever saw, I have had performed by two mules *tandem*, without reins or driver.

"The longevity of a mule is so proverbial, that a purchaser seldom inquires his age. Pliny mentions one 80 years old; and Dr. Rees, two in England that reached the age of 70. I saw one performing his labor in a cane-mill in the West Indes, which the owner assured me was forty years old. I have now a mare-mule 25 years old, that I have had in constant work for 21 years. She has often within a year taken a ton weight in a wagon to Boston, 5 miles, and manifests no diminution of her powers. A neighbor has one 28 years old, which he would not exchange for any horse in the country."

A correspondent of the Baltimore Patriot, asserts that "Col. John E. Howard had a pair of mules that worked 30 years, after which they were sold to a carter in the city, and performed hard service for several years longer. Mules are not subject to the glanders, heaves, yellow water, and colic, like horses; and seldom are afflicted with spavin, ring-bone, or bots, and they will not founder."

Mr Skinner mentions riding with General Shelby, of Kentucky, with a pair of mules in harness, eight miles within the hour, without the use of the whip. Gen. Shelby says he "has known mules to travel 10 miles within the hour in light harness, and has himself driven a pair 40 miles in six hours, stopping an hour by the way."

To the foregoing testimony, I may add that of the late Judge Hinckley, of Northampton, Mass.; a shrewd and close observer through a long life, reaching to 84 years. He bred mules at an early day, and always kept a team of them for his farm work, much preferring them to horses for this purpose, after an experience of 50 years. He had a pair nearly 30 years old, which, on light pasturage in summer, and with a moderate supply of hay and very little grain in winter, performed all the drudgery, though he kept his stable full of horses besides. They outlived several successive generations of horses, and though the latter were often sick and out of condition, the mules never were. This pair once took two of us on a *fancy drive* of some 40 miles, which they easily performed in half a day, although attached to a heavy clumsy vehicle. One from the stock of Judge Hinckley, 45 years old, was sold for the same price paid for a lot of young mules, he being, at that mature age, perfectly able to perform his full share of labor.

To sum up the advantages of working mules over horses, we shall have as advantage—

1. They are more easily, surely, and cheaply raised.

2. They are kept, after commencing work, for about half the cost of keeping horses.

3. They are not subject to many of the diseases of the horse, and to others only in a mitigated degree, and even these are easily cured in the mule.

4. They attain an age twice as great, and his average working age is probably three times that of the horse.

We shall not here go into the estimate of the value of oxen as compared either with horses or mules, but content ourselves with saying, that the strictest economy requires that a spirited, intelligent, vigorous, muscular animal, like the pure North Devon, or Hereford, or native New England ox, ought to be substituted for both the mule and horse, wherever the latitude and labor will admit of their employment to advantage.

Buffalo, Dec. 13th, 1843. R. L. Allen.

The most aggravated wounds of domestic animals, it is said, are easily cured with a portion of the yolk of eggs mixed with spirits of turpentine.

There are 260 lawyers, 180 physicians, and 72 clergymen in the city of Boston.

FOURTH AGRICULTURAL MEETING AT THE STATE HOUSE—Jan. 30.

The subject under discussion was "The Management of Stock, as relates to the general care and feeding."

Hon. Josiah Quincy, Jr. occupied the chair. The meeting was not so fully attended as were the previous ones, occasioned, no doubt, by the very severe weather.

Mr Cole, of the Cultivator, commenced the discussion, and occupied about thirty minutes. His remarks opened a wide field, embracing many subjects which would afford abundant matter for many evenings' consideration. He considered the subject a fruitful one, and could only glance at some few particulars connected with it. And first, of neat stock. The ox, he thought of more importance to the farmer than any other animal; he was far more useful and necessary than the horse, notwithstanding he is not so swift. The horse better subserved the pleasure of man, but the ox was valuable for his great strength, as well as for other good properties in which the horse is deficient. One great objection to the ox was his slow movement, which he thought might be in a measure ascribed to his training: that he might be educated to travel much faster. In England, and in this country, the ox was accustomed to travel very slow; but in Africa he would move at the rate of from three to five miles per hour, with ease. He was also very sagacious, and could be trained like a shepherd's dog.

He then spoke of raising calves, in which he had some experience. He said it was the general practice to let them suck until the time of weaning, but he thought it better to feed them with porridge made with skimmed milk thickened with Indian meal, which he thought better than new milk. On weaning calves that are permitted to suck the cow, they are apt to fall off, and do not recover till fall; but when fed on porridge, the change to grass does not affect them so injuriously. They should be fed with clover and grass as soon as they are disposed to eat green food. In some few cases, calves thus treated might be troubled with the scours, but this would be cured or prevented by giving them fresh earth, lime or chalk; rennet was also very good, when put in their food. Some make use of food made of flaxseed, by taking one quart of flaxseed and six quarts of water, which forms a jelly, and given without milk. He said one farmer in England, raised 55 calves in this way, and all did well: the expense of flaxseed to each calf was only about 18 cents. Whey has also been used with success instead of skimmed milk.

In wintering calves, more attention is requisite the first winter than those succeeding, and more care is necessary to keep them in good condition. They should have good coarse hay and roots, and he recommended the practice of keeping them with sheep. The sheep will eat the fine part of the hay, while the calves will pick out the coarse, and they will not be endangered in their company as they will be when permitted to run among the large cattle; nor will they be troubled with lice, as the wool of sheep is offensive to these vermin.

Cattle should be kept warm in the winter: it is essential to their comfort, health, and thrift, especially for milch cows, and a great saving of food, as every observing farmer well knows. Cattle will eat more fodder in very cold weather: in case of a sudden change to warm, they will not eat more than four-fifths they did before the change. He thought the best method was to have a cellar under the barn, but not an open one, or if it was, there should be a double floor under the cattle. It had been found by experiment that a tight barn would keep hay best. The cow-house should be kept so tight that water would hardly freeze in it. He would not have cattle kept continually in a warm barn, but turn them out every day for air and exercise, in the morning and evening: the house should be so constructed that fresh air could be freely admitted when necessary, as it is injurious to all animals to breathe impure air.

As to watering cattle, various modes were practiced: some turn them out at ten o'clock, and then again at night, to drink; but this he thought a bad practice, as by remaining 17 or 18 hours without drink, they became exceedingly thirsty, and would take so much as to injure them, and make them more susceptible to the cold. He thought it a good plan to carry a little water to them after they had eaten their supper in the evening: they should also be turned out to drink in the morning after they have eaten a part of their breakfast, and then tied up again.

In feeding, there were some that practiced the course of giving a constant supply, or to give it whenever they were disposed to eat; but he thought it a better practice to feed twice in the morning and twice at night, with some coarse fodder at noon.

As to cutting fodder, most persons considered it a good plan, as in this way much coarse fodder can be worked up, which would otherwise be lost, and very few object to this mode. Mr Bloodgood, of New York, kept 20 horses six months on cut feed at two-thirds the cost when kept on uncut the same time. Mr Sheldon, of Beverly, in keeping a stock of 51 head of cattle, considered that 600 lbs. of cut fodder was equal to 1000 lbs. uncut; that he made a great gain in the quantity of milk: from 25 cows at the rate of 6 gallons per day.

Most farmers find it profitable to feed out roots of various kinds to their stock, which are found conducive to their health. He knew of two horses kept on ruta baga and stubble, without grain, that worked every day and kept in good condition. Roots were considered good for cows, particularly when in milk.

As to cooking food for cattle, he thought there was but little advantage to be derived from it. The corn fed to cattle he thought it advisable to grind up with the cob, as being lighter and more economical than when shelled and ground without the cob.

When cattle are fed on green food, they require more salt than when kept on hay. Some put too much salt on their hay, which though greedily devoured by the animals, was injurious. Salt should be so placed that it may at all times be accessible to the cattle.

Corn fodder, whether green or dry, he considered as very valuable, and good for milch cows.

In soiling cattle, a cow may be kept on one-half acre of land, while it would take three or more acres to pasture one. A Mr Gowen, near Philadelphia, kept 20 cows on 3 or 4 acres, about four months, until they were turned into the mowing.

In constructing stables for horses, it is important that the stalls should be so situated as to afford them pure air: the stables generally are built without any regard to this important consideration. He thought the horses' heads should, when tied up, be towards the barn floor; that they should not be permitted to stand on a floor, but on earth or tan, as floors are bad for their feet.

As to sheep, they should be pastured on high lands. He thought it was not necessary that there should be water in the pasture for them, as they fed in the morning when the dew was on. It was, however, necessary that they should have water in the winter.

Mr Robbins inquired how old a calf should be when taken from the cow?

Mr Cole replied that they should be taken away when two days old, and be first fed with milk from the cow, then with porridge for six or eight days, when clover and grass might be gradually given: pure earth, mixed with ashes or salt, should be given to prevent the scours.

Mr Dodge said that in undertaking to educate calves, he found some difficulty in learning them to drink milk, until a hired man in his employ from the country, told of a way he had been accustomed to, which was, to have a leather cot in the shape of a teat, which they will readily suck, which might be fastened to the bottom of the trough in which their food is deposited. Mr Dodge had brought them up with skim milk with very little new milk, and they throve very well upon it. The calves would take hold of the cot when one day old.

He had much difficulty with his cows in calving time, and had sometimes lost a cow in the spring: they would lose their weathers, take cold and die. He supposed the trouble might be attributed partly to a cold barn yard, for since he put up a shed protecting the yard from the cutting winds, he had been more successful.

Mr Child, of Conway, inquired how cattle could be made to eat the whole of the stubs of corn stalks.

Mr Cole replied that if the stalks were large, they can be cut with a machine, so that the greater part would be consumed.

Mr Merriam, of Auburn, stated that his mode of proceeding in raising calves, did not vary essentially from that of the gentleman who first spoke. His method was to take the calf from the cow when two or three days old. He had no difficulty in learning them to drink: first he gave new milk, then porridge made of skim milk, and sometimes fed them with whey. He then fed them with Indian meal, and afterwards on fine hay, then he let them pick their own feed; he also gave them bran, with a proportion of salt. In this way his calves always did well; and in the fall they looked well and made good cattle. He found this plan better than any other. The first year he put them with the sheep—in winter he fed them on corn fodder, &c., and in spring on beans, peas, &c. With regard to oxen, he kept them on hay, summer and winter. He had not been in the habit of cutting fodder till this winter; his horses ate too much, and he found that by cutting the fodder he saved much. He cut all his feed for his stock, excepting for his sheep and calves. With his cut feed he mixes in his meal (corn and cob ground together) at the rate of three quarts each for his oxen, and one pint for his cows per day; and to his young cattle nothing but dry feed. In this way he works up all his straw and corn fodder. He also spoke

about keeping cattle warm in winter, which he considered a most important point, he litters his cattle every night with straw which keeps them in good order: his barn is warm, the boards matched and painted, with a cellar under it. Sheep *would* live without water, but it was better that they should have it if they wished; horses, also, *would* live without water, but it was infinitely better that they should have it. Mr Merriam spoke of the caution which farmers should exercise in letting their cattle drink stagnant water from pools, &c., which are to be found in fields—and alluded to the death of a fine colt, which was occasioned by his drinking impure and stagnant water. He was inthe habit of salting part of his hay, but not to a greater extent than his cattle needed; he also put salt with hay, which was carried into the barn in bad condition. As to roots, he raised some, and fed his cattle on them in the spring; he did not give them to cows before calving, but after calving he allowed them to have them. He let his calves go with the sheep—did not confine them, but let them go in and out where they pleased; he also allowed them to drink when they pleased.

Mr Graves, of Deerfield, said he had listened with interest to the remarks which had been made; he had some experience in raising calves, and his practice varied but little from those who had spoken upon the subject. He takes the calves directly from the mother, lets them know nothing about sucking, and finds that by doing so there is less difficulty in learning them to drink milk. He gives his calves new milk two or three weeks, then skim milk, and soon as they will bear it, meal. Rye meal is the best, which should not be bolted; they are not liable to scour when thus treated, and do better than when they are permitted to suck. When six months old they are in better condition than when fed in the usual way. The first winter he gave them oats in the sheaf chopped up. If he had no oats he gave a little meal every day through the winter with good hay.

Hon. Mr Allen, of Pembroke, remarked, that he differed a little from the gentleman on the subject of raising calves. He was a child of nature, and loved to follow her and let his calves be with their dam. When the calf is able to take all the milk he should be turned into the pasture with the cow, and will learn from her how to eat in the pasture, and drink too. In three months he suffered them to run with cattle that were fattening, and found no difficulty in their wintering well.

As to keeping calves very warm, said he must differ from some of the speakers. He thought it important that cattle should be exposed as well as man. Calves want air, and they are not apt to suffer with cold, if they have liberty to go under a shed. He remarked that if he should be kept in this house for a few months, by a long session, when he returned home to his farm, should be very unfit to face a northwester: he could not endure the change—but should wilt down under the influence of it.

(Concluded on editorial page.)

It is stated that 40 or 50 vessels have gone out to bring Guano from the rocky islands on the west coast of Africa. If it be true that guano only dispenses its virtues where there is little or no rain, the speculation is like to be a losing one.—*London pap.*

From the Mass. Ploughman.

WILL POTATOES MAKE MILCH COWS POOR?

Mr Editor—I noticed in the Ploughman of Dec. 22d, in a communication from your correspondent "Cui," the following statement: "Potatoes will make a milch cow grow poor." And in your remarks following, you say nothing about it, thus tacitly giving assent. I would like to know if it is indeed so? What means then the hue and cry we heard but a short time ago, "roots for stock"; "roots for stock"? Were all our wise heads mistaken about this, and some of them still in ignorance, blindly leading the blind into the ditch? Are roots, or any one kind of roots commonly given to stock, really of no benefit; nay, worse than that, a positive injury?

One fact and I have done. I have a small dairy of four or five cows: they are, and have been for many winters past, kept principally on meadow hay, (of which your correspondent speaks very slightly,) with other coarse fodder and about a peck of potatoes, carrots or turnips to each cow per day. It is a fact they are not poor, notwithstanding they eat potatoes. It is a fact, too, that by using the thermometer and churning the cream at a proper temperature, that no witches ever trouble; the butter is not obstinate and "wont come." And it is a fact too that the butter is abundantly fit to eat when "it has come." S. F. P.

☞It is a very prevalent notion that milch cows will not gain flesh on potatoes: many think they grow poor by eating them. But what then? They give out more milk, and we continue to give them. Does any one doubt that cows will be poorer in the spring for being milked through the winter, instead of going dry for four months? Yet we milk them.

There is much difference in cows in this respect. Some will convert their potatoes to milk, and some will convert but a part of it, and the rest goes to sustain, or to fatten the cow. But suppose that all cows become poorer for eating potatoes while in milk, it by no means follows that we suffer a loss by giving them potatoes.—*Ed.*

From the Albany Cultivator.

THE CARROT.

Messrs Gaylord & Tucker—The improvements in the ancient and honorable art of agriculture in New England, within the last quarter of a century, are truly obvious, and particularly for the last few years it has become a subject of interesting contemplation to every lover of his country.

Though the writer is desirous to contribute his mite to the laudable object of the pursuit of agriculture, it is because it is so intimately connected with the interest and well being of his country and the community. Within the last few years the cultivation of the carrot has engrossed a greater share of his attention than that of any other vegetable. If then the few ideas which are hastily thrown together upon this subject, shall ultimately lead to the best method of cultivating this valuable and nutritious root, he will be richly rewarded for whatever pains he may have taken in observing and superintending its growth. We are satisfied from experience that this plant may be brought to great perfection in any part of New England, and with suitable attention will abundantly remunerate the husbandman for all his necessary care and labor. Were our farmers who keep a large stock, to devote a spare acre to the cultivation of this root, we make no doubt they will at the harvest, find themselves in possession of a large store of feed, of valuable and rare qualities for sheep, horses, and cattle, which will save largely of hay and other fodder, in times of scarcity of such crops. The three varieties of carrot that constitute the subject of these observations, and the long yellow, the large field, and the Altringham white. Scarcely any vegetable during its growth presents a richer appearance than the carrot, whether we contemplate the young plant or the mature root. Hence it may be said in truth, to be an ornamental as well as profitable crop.

For the table, the long yellow is preferable. Its surface is smooth and fibre very compact. In proportion to its size, it doubtless yields the greatest amount of nutriment. Next to this is the large field variety, on which the horse feeds and thrives well, and it gives to the hair a peculiar smooth and glossy appearance. This root is short and rough, often sending off large radicles or branches of roots. When it grows luxuriantly, it is frequently hollow at the upper part. It yields a larger crop than the former, but is better adapted to stock than the table. The Altringham white is a long beautiful root, much less nutritious than either of the other varieties, and resembles some of the finest specimens of the long white turnip. It is a hardy plant, requiring less care in its cultivation than the other varieties. Stock feed and thrive well upon it.

The soil best adapted to the carrot, is a deep rich loam, free from gravel or sand. If it be too adhesive or lumpy, ashes or lime may be mixed with it. If manure be used, it should be entirely decomposed or rotted, and intimately mixed with the earth. The ground should be plowed or spaded fine and deep, the whole being made mellow.

The seed should be planted early in April, in drills not less than 22 inches apart. When the plants spring up, they should be early freed from weeds and the earth loosened around them. The feeble plants should be pulled, leaving only the most hardy ones. At the second weeding they should be thinned again, leaving the most healthy to grow, and thus continue, leaving the most thrifty ones not less than 20 inches apart, so as to give large room for the tops. In this manner, the writer has raised the yellow carrot no less than seven inches through, and at the rate probably of 600 or 700 bushels to the acre.

Middletown, Ct., Dec. 23, 1843.

Several persons in Yarmouth, in this State, have been severely poisoned by sitting in a room where peat was burning, supposed to have in it the roots of ivy or dogwood.—*Mail.*

Leave the bucket of your neighbor from whose well you draw, half full of water—the ice in the morning will remind him of your visit, without leaving your card.

"I can't imagine," said Alderman A——, "why my whiskers turn grey so much sooner than my head." "Because," observed a wag, "you work so much more with your *jaws* than with your *brains*."

From the National Intelligencer.

A NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE.

Believing that a National Agricultural Institute and Pattern Farm in the neighborhood of Washington, if so organized and conducted as to teach alike the science, the practice, and the profits of good husbandry, would be productive of incalculable benefits to the whole country, I trust the editors of the National Intelligencer will give publicity to the following suggestions, designed to advance the most important branch of productive industry in the United States.

It may be safely assumed that there is now extant a large amount of useful knowledge appertaining to every department of rural economy, which unfortunately, is confined to a very few, and therefore comparatively of very little value to the great mass of those engaged in rural pursuits. If a fair portion of this truly practical knowledge were generally diffused among all the tillers of the earth, it would double the profits, if not the products of American agriculture. Increase the annual returns from the land and labor now devoted to rural employments, but ten per cent., and you will add over one hundred millions of dollars to the annual income of the American people. Augment the yield of the winter wheat now on the ground only ten per cent., by giving to the plant a cheap but full supply of those elements which impart strength to its body and a large developement to its seed, and you will double our surplus breadstuffs for the export of the next season. The transportation of this surplus to market will add immediately to the business and much-needed revenue of all our intenal improvements, and give an auspicious impulse to our manufacturing, mercantile, and commercial enterprise. Teach the corngrowers of this land of maize how to harvest only twenty per cent. more—which can easily be done —than they now do from the same land and labor, and you will secure to them and to the community a clear gain of 80,000,000 bushels of corn.

It is well known to be practicable so to change the organic structure and functions of the pig, of which there are millions in the country, that one animal will, from a given amount of food, yield to its owner twice as much flesh and fat as another. Transform, to the best advantage, the above named 80,000,000 bushels of corn into pork, beef, lard, oil, stearine, &c., and it will load thousands of railroad cars, canal boats, and vessels, on its way to foreign consumers.

According to the census returns of 1840, our twenty millions of sheep gave less than two pounds of wool per head. If we make, as we can, all the other functions of this animal co-operate with those organs that elaborate wool—if we stimulate the latter to the active secretion of this important product, by giving the sheep such food as contains a large portion of the elements of wool, it has been found practicable to clip eight or ten pounds as the return from the same value of raw material, which, under other circumstances, would give only two pounds. It requires, however, several generations to effect these important organic changes, although much can be done in the way of improvement during the lifetime of each individual.

How few practical farmers know how to make or to perpetuate these organic changes in the structure and functions of their domestic animals, which are alike practicable in all their cultivated plants. Not knowing by what circumstances and elements these favorable changes are produced, the great mass of American agriculturists are equally incapable of preventing deterioration, to which the highly artificial condition of both their plants and animals render them extremely prone. Hence is deduced the momentous truth, that practical science, universally diffused among all our rural population, is indispensable to maintain the improvements in any branch of husbandry which science has already achieved. The knowledge of the few, no matter how profound, can never compensate for the ignorance of the many. The important fact is too little heeded, that all men have minds which need intellectual food and developement, as well as physical wants which must be provided for. As a people, we lack not capital, but knowledge—sound, practical knowledge—that we may avail ourselves of all the legitimate and abundant advantages placed within our reach by the benevolent Author of our being.

Nothing is more common, even in this new and sparsely settled country, than to see fields badly exhausted by improper tillage. Unless the food of vegetables derived from the soil be dissolved in water, it can hardly enter the minute pores of their roots, and form a portion of their circulating nourishment. If this food, however, be at all times soluble in water, every rain that falls will dissolve it, and wash it away into rivulets, or carry it deep into the earth beyond the roots of growing, if not *starving* plants. The needless loss from the premature solution of ill-prepared manures, and the leaching or the soil when stirred up and made light by the use of the plow or the hoe, is many millions a year. Vegetable food should be so prepared, as far as practicable, as to encounter both the frosts and snows of winter and the heat and rain of summer without loss, and yet yield readily to the decomposing influence of vegetable life. Nothing short of this can maintain the fertility of all cultivated lands. It is to practical science that our farmers, and all others who happen to have mouths that require three meals in every twentyfour hours, and backs that need to be clad in wool and cotton, must look for a remedy for this increasing sterility of the soil, and a thousand other evils to which no allusion can be made.

In what way can this invaluable knowledge be brought home to the fireside and understanding of every husbandman in this broad republic? I answer, in part by the efficient aid of a National Agricultural Institute and Pattern Farm, near the capital of the nation. The plan of that at Brignon, near Paris, (which has been eminently successful,) with slight variations, might be adopted with advantage. The French Institute was established in 1829, on a domain of over fourteen hundred acres, and by using on old palace for college buildings. Since it was founded, the crop of wheat annually grown in the kingdom, has been increased, according to official reports, over one hundred million bushels. It is under the direction of a company of business men, and so managed as to be profitable stock.

A National Institute should have several young gentlemen as pupils from every Congressional district in the Union. These once thoroughly educated, would return and engraft, as far as desirable, the science of rural economy upon every literary institution in the country. By the aid of model farms in every county, public lectures, and the cordial support of the whole intelligence and virtue of the community, these public benefactors would be able to scatter broadcast the good seed of a sound practical knowledge of the immutable laws of Nature over the whole length and breadth of the nation.

What better use can be made of the ample funds given to the Federal Government by the Smithsonian bequest than to qualify six hundred or a thousand young gentlemen, every three years, to carry home to every man's door in this great agricultural republic, a knowledge of all the improvements made in practical husbandry by the experience and study of the whole world? The cultivators of the soil have this matter in their own hands. If they will only speak to their public servants in Congress, this important object can be promptly secured. The gain to the whole country will be not only incalculable in amount, but as universal as the first wants of our common nature, and as enduring as the immortal mind.

Will not the friends of human elevation, the friends of agricultural improvement, unite with me, and send up hundreds of petitions to Congress, asking the representatives of a rural population to establish an Agricultural Institute and Pattern Farm, near the capital of the nation, and thereby open a perennial fountain of knowledge, whose thousand rills shall fertilize at once and forever the whole intellect and the whole cultivated soil of this young and rising republic? How many millions have been expended from the National treasury, or otherwise taken from the pockets of the people, for the benefit of commerce and manufactures? Is the great interest of agriculture alone unworthy of public regard? Will not the keensighted and patriotic press of the whole country speak out upon a question of equal benefit to all parties, and therefore alike worthy of their earnest support? DANIEL LEE.

Buffalo, Dec. 14, 1843.

DANA'S PRIZE ESSAY ON MANURES.

Section Fourth.

Of the Action of Mould in Cattle Dung.

Here, then, we have cattle dung with its several ingredients spread out before us.

We have now to study its action. We need here consider only the salts and mould. The water is only water, and has no other action than water. The mould includes the hay, for that has, by chewing, and the action of the beast's stomach, lost so much of its character, that, mingled with the slime and bile, &c., it more rapidly decays than fresh hay would, placed in similar circumstances. During this act of decay, as you have already learned, the volatile parts of the mould are given off in part. These escape as in burning wood, as water or steam, carbonic acid, and ammonia. In consequence of this slow mouldering fire or decay, the manure heats. Here, then, we have three very decided and important actions produced by the vegetable part, or mould of cattle dung. First, carbonic acid is given off; second, ammonia is formed; third, heat is produced. Let us now consider each of these, and their effects.

First, the great action of the carbonic acid is upon the soil, its earthy parts. It has the same action on these, that air, rain, frost, have; it divides and reduces them. It not only reduces them to powder, but it extracts from the earth potash and the alkalies. This is a very important act,

and shows why it is necessary that decay or fermentation should take place in and under the soil among sprouting seeds and growing roots, in order that they may obtain from the soil, the salts they want.

If well-rotted manure contains abundance of these salts, ready formed in its mould, then there will be less necessity of this action of carbonic acid. But here again it must be remembered, that this abundance of salts, ready formed in mould, can be produced only at the expense of great loss by fermentation of real valuable parts. For,

Secondly, the next great action of the mould of cattle dung is, to produce or form ammonia. This plays a threefold part: its first action is, to render the mould more soluble; this action it possesses in common with the fixed alkalies, potash and soda. All the alkalies put a large, but undefined portion of mould, into a state fit to become food for plants. The second action of ammonia is this, it hastens decay. It is the bellows, we may say, kindling the slow mouldering fire. The third action of ammonia is, to combine with any free acids, such as vinegar, or even an acid formed of mould itself, but especially with aquafortis, or nitric acid, which is always produced where animal or vegetable matters decay. This is a highly important fact. The result of this action, the production of ammonia and aquafortis during the formation of mould, is, that a kind of saltpetre is thereby produced. That is, the ammonia and aquafortis unite, and form a salt, with properties similar to saltpetre. But we want the first and second action of ammonia to occur, before the third takes place. Consider now, reader, whether a more ~~more~~ beautiful and effectual way can be devised to hasten decay, and render mould more fit for nourishing plants, than this which nature has provided. The ammonia is volatile. It remains, not like potash and soda, where it is put, incapable of moving unless dissolved by water; but ammonia, like steam, pervades every part. It is as expansive as steam. Heated up by the slow mouldering fire of decay, it penetrates the whole mass of mould. It does its work there. What is that work? It has already been told. But, if it finds no acid to combine with, it then unites with the mould itself. It is absorbed by it. The mould holds it fast; it stores it up against the time when growing plants may need it. Now it is only where the abundance of ammonia produced satisfies these actions of hastening decay, making mould soluble, and filling its pores without combining with it, that the formation of saltpetre takes place. So where animal matters, which are the great source of ammonia, decay, there we may expect all these actions to occur.

How important, then, is that action of mouldering which produces ammonia. If, reader, you will reflect upon the consequences of this action, you will at once see, that if the mould is in too small a quantity to retain the ammonia, it may escape. If by a wasty exposure, you allow your mould to dissipate itself in air, as it certainly will, you not only incur the loss of that part of the mould, but you diminish at the same time, the chance of keeping the ammonia which has been formed. No doubt all cattle dung exposed to air, forms more ammonia than it can retain. Hence the necessity and the reason of forming composts with this substance. "Keep what you have got, and catch what you can," must never be lost sight of in manure.

The third action of mould is, the production of heat. Little need be said upon this. That a slight degree of heat hastens the sprouting of seeds, you well know. That different manures produce different degrees of heat; that some are hot, some cold, you well know, and adapt your seed and manure to each other. The degree of heat depends upon the rapidity with which decay occurs. And this is affected by the quantity of ammonia which each manure can afford. The great point to which your attention should be directed, when considering the power of mouldering to produce heat is, that it shall not go so far as to burn up your manure, just as hay will heat and take fire.

(To be continued.)

[From the Louisville Journal.]

LUCERNE.

We hope that the following article, written by one of the best and most experienced farmers in the country, will induce many to sow lucerne. On the proper soil there is no doubt of the success. The sandy Ohio bottoms are all admirably suited to it. Let the reader remember that it should be soiled," that is, cut and fed to the cattle. The soiling system is an admirable one in the vicinity of cities and on all small farms. On such situations no hoof should ever touch a clover field; even the hogs should be kept up throughout the whole year.

LUCERNE.—Bred a farmer in Scotland, I have, since my sojourn in this country, habitually been casting an eye to the crops raised, their culture, the capabilities of the soil, and the advantages of the climate, and I have been a little surprised that I never met with lucerne. It is true my lot has denied me the opportunities of seeing the best cultivated districts in the United States, yet it is little noticed in your agricultural papers, and extensive as has been the rural information in your Journal, I recollect but a solitary instance of its presence.

I had not been long here until I was of opinion that this plant or grass is suited to the soil or climate and admirably calculated to fill up the deficiency that frequently occurs in the supply of green food, in the early part of summer, and also in the hot and often severe droughts of July and August. I immediately tested it and found I was right; it was on too small a scale to attract any notice, but sufficient to confirm my opinion. Lucerne is deep rooted and delights in light friable soils, and is not soon injured by drought. As far as I have seen, it is the most early of the soiling grasses, and will eat three times in one season. It is the most nourishing food to be given an animal as well as the most healthful—hence its botanical name, and as it keeps in the ground for a great number of years, by saving the expense of frequent renewals, ought to be more a favorite with the American farmers. I will state a few facts in support of these views, requesting you to keep in mind they are from actual observation while in Scotland.

Mr Guthrie, at Porto Bello, a handsome seabathing town on the London road from Edinburg, and two miles from the latter city, had a field of two acres of light sand upon tough blue clay. He burnt brick extensively, excavating the clay to a great depth. The surface of the unbroken part of the field was in lucerne, and, when it first came under my notice, had been so for a number of years. It was planted in drills one foot apart and was hoed between when needful in the spring, but so luxuriant was its growth and so effectually did it cover and occupy the soil that this was little required. I know it at thirteen years from planting; by this time the brick-yard had so encroached on the lucerne that there was little more than half an acre left, yet this was sufficient for the summer support of a pair of hard-wrought horses without any other food; and that gentleman's servant often wished for the time when he could take his horses from hay and oats, that they might fatten on lucerne.

Mr Gardner, (a gardener,) at the ancient village of Restabrig, had a quarter of an acre (which kept his horse) cultivated in the same way as that of his neighbor, Mr Guthrie, and with the same success. And Mr Henderson, an eminent nurseryman, in the same vicinity, had an acre sown broadcast which bore luxuriant crops. These, though on small scales; were so successful as to induce Mr Oliver, of Lochend, well known to the readers of your Journal, to sow several acres. I saw Mr. Oliver's four acres planted, it was then thriving finely and sold at high prices to the cow-keepers and carters of the city. Mr Oliver irrigated a portion of his crop with liquid manure procured from a large dairy establishment in his neighborhood, with great success. The mode of culture was to completely pulverize the soil by repeated and deep ploughings, and free it from weeds, and drill it a foot apart, using from eight to ten pounds of seed per acre; the young plants occupied two to three inches of this surface, leaving nine to ten. The Dutch hoe, nine inches in the face, is pushed along this interval several times while the plants are young, and when grown, after every cutting. If sown in March, it will cut once that season. If sown in the fall, a full crop may be expected next year. Mr Oliver's soil is sandy loam on poor land. For two successive years I kept a hard-working horse solely on lucerne from the middle of May to November, but without knowing from how much land, as other stock were feeding at the same time. After forty-six years experience, I have the conviction that it is the best food for milch cows and work horses that has come under my notice, and the reason it is not more cultivated in Scotland, I believe, is, that the spots favorable to its growth are few and far between. The first time I saw lucerne growing was in a cottager's garden at Stanwell, in Middlesex, England. On a spot not much larger than a bed-quilt where he kept his pig. His plants were raised in a nursery and set out in single plants at foot intervals. Transplanting is recommended by some, as the breaking of the top root forces latervals more likely to find food especially on thin soils. I sowed in 1834 four rows across a bed fifteen yards wide in the Berthard garden at Shippingport, near Louisville, which was the experiment mentioned in the beginning of this communication and cut a heavy crop in April. It may be still there—I cut it six years. P.

MR COLMAN'S TOUR.

Our readers will regret to learn that the publication of the first part of Mr Colman's European Tour has been delayed by an accident which befel him, and from which he came near losing his life. While visiting a farm near London, early in December, on horseback, he was thrown from his horse and so severely injured as to unfit him for mental or physical exertion for a considerable period. At the last dates, he had nearly recovered. —*Alb. Cult.*

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

Edited by Joseph Breck.

Boston, Wednesday, Feb. 7, 1844.

FOURTH AGRICULTURAL MEETING AT THE STATE HOUSE.

(Continued from page 251.)

Mr Stone, of Beverly, remarked that it was a settled axiom now since the science of agriculture was more understood, that no man could be a good farmer who did not keep a plenty of stock; for, without stock, there could be no manure, and without manure there could be no crop; and if but little produce, the receipts must necessarily be small. He thought it advisable for every farmer to keep more stock than they generally do. Of the variety of stock to be kept on a place, every farmer must be his own judge: a fair proportion, however, he thought should be swine. The fashions were continually changing. All abstinence from labor was formerly considered by some, as a criterion of a gentleman. Dr. Franklin's negro servant remarked, after his return from England with his master, that "the hog was the only gentleman there; for man worke, horse worke, the ox worke—all worke but the hog: he eat, he drink, he sleep—he no worke; he lib like a gentleman." Mr Stone remarked that there was a great improvement in swine as well as in men since that time. It was now no mark of a gentleman to be idle, and the same feeling seemed to be infused into the swine, as they did their part of the farm work, and their services were highly useful and important as agents in decomposing manures.

He thought it was better to have water from a running stream brought into the barn-yard for the benefit of the cattle, than to be obliged to keep the boys from school to drive them to the brook. When cattle do not have access to water in the yard, they will oftentimes drink so much as to injure them when driven to it after long abstinence. He recommended to put hot water in the watering tub in very cold weather for milch cows, to take the chill from the water. As to food for cattle, they were fond of a variety; should have corn-fodder, roots, hay, &c. New milch cows should be learned to drink swill from the kitchen: that in his experience it greatly increased the milk, and was more profitable for them to give the swine. As to raising calves, he coincided with much that had been stated, but in his neighborhood they have a value for the market. Good veal was an important article, and the great object was to give it a delicate complexion and fine flavor, which was affected by the calves sucking the cow, and being tied up in a pen, and kept comfortable with straw; for if much exercised by running with the dam, the veal will be red, tough, and unsaleable. He remarked, that in case a farmer should lose one of his oxen, as is sometimes the case, his mate could be trained to work single, like a horse. Bulls can also be trained in the same way, and answer all the purposes of a horse. He said carrots were much used in his neighborhood for horses; that they throve better with them than when fed on grain.

Mr Smith, of South Hadley, thought Mr Stone's practice of feeding on slops, better in theory than in practice, and asked the gentleman how large a family must a man have to make slops for a dozen cows? He thought it would cost more than the milk was worth.

As to raising calves, he thought there was some risk in feeding with meal, for if too much is given, they will scour. He takes his calves from the cows at three days old. He feeds them three times a day with what is called bonny-clabber, or sour milk. He said a neighbor of his found it impossible at first to make his calf drink this; but he determined he should drink it or starve. He made a second offer at noon, but it was refused: at night, the calf was glad to drink the whole, and it seemed as if he would take pail and all. Calves should by all means be kept well the first year. He liked the plan of keeping them with sheep, but they need better food, and should have a constant supply of water, living water in the cow-yard. He had aqueducts which conveyed water to his yard, which saved him more than the interest of $500. He thought corn fodder was generally under-rated. He once kept a cow for his hired man: he fed her principally on corn-stover as he did his own cows, in the fore part of winter. His man complained, and wanted her fed on good hay, to which he acceded, but after trying it awhile, the man found the quantity of milk diminishing, and desired his cow might be fed with corn-stover. His wishes were again gratified, and he soon found the quantity and quality of his milk improving.

As to salt for sheep, he said a little was good; but he knew a man who lost three-fourths of his flock one winter in consequence of eating from a load of hay that had been made very salt in order to keep it from spoiling. The whole flock was affected. He at length recollected that this load of hay had received a large quantity of salt, and removed them from it only in season to save one-fourth of his flock.

"Mr Cole said that he wished to explain, as it seemed that he was not understood in regard to keeping cattle warm. He recommended a very warm barn, as a protection against very severe cold, and when the weather was mild, the doors should be opened and the barn ventilated, that the cattle might be supplied with pure air. As to following nature, there was not time to discuss the subject. He would barely remark that if we allow nature to take her course, we should reap a crop of weeds instead of grain. All our labors were to direct nature. We cut down the hills, and raise the valleys, build railroads, improving on nature."

[Col. S. Jaques, of the Ten Hills Farm, Charlestown, next spoke on the subject before the meeting. His remarks were highly interesting and important to the farmer. We took copious notes of what he said, for our paper, but fearing we might not do him justice, we requested him to give the substance of his speech in a communication, which he has obligingly done, with some additional remarks, interesting, we think, to our readers. We have also procured an engraving to show the manner of blinding bulls, as described by him. See next page.]

THE WEATHER—BOSTON HARBOR, &c.

According to all accounts, the weather for the last fortnight has been more severe than it has for many years past. Some say we have not had so cold a month as January since 1784. The following note to the Courier, will tell the story

To the Editor of the Courier:

Some curiosity having been expressed to know the comparative temperature of the month closing, I send you the results of the Cambridge observations as far as I am able at this moment to give them.

Referring to Dr. Farrar's paper on the meteorology of Cambridge, I find that according to observations of Dr. Winthrop, with "Hawkesbee's thermometer reduced to Fahrenheit's scale," the mean temperature of the month of January, from 1742 to 1774, was 28°..99

By Dr Williams's observations from 1783 to 1788, the mean temperature of the month was 22°..50

According to President Webber's and Prof. Farrar's observations from 1790 to 1812, the mean temperature was 24°..97

The coldest January was that of 1792—the mean of the month being 17°..5. The warmest, 1802—33°..5.

The mean temperature of the month of January for the years,

1840,	was	20°..20
41,	"	27...87
42,	"	27...10
43,	"	28...45
44,	"	15...44
	Mean of the five last Januaries,	23...81

During January, 1844, the mean for the month at sunrise was 10°..80

At 9, A. M.	14...38
3, P. M.	21..47
9, P. M.	15...10

The thermometer was highest on the 17th, at 3, P. M. 45 deg.

Lowest, on the 12th, at sunrise, 9 deg. below.

Range, 54 deg.

Cambridge Observatory, January 31, 1844. } B.

Boston harbor has been frozen over as far down as the Narrows—a distance of 8 miles—and it was asserted that "the Gut," at Point Shirley, where the current is very rapid, was frozen so completely as to bear an ox team—a circumstance said to be unknown to have occurred within 60 years.

Wonderful Increase in the Fertility of a Soil.—A correspondent of the Providence County Journal, makes Dr. Jackson say at the third agricultural meeting, that a soil which had been manured with ashes alone—a pine barren—had increased in fertility "300 per cent.," according to the analysis of Mr Mason and Dr. Jackson. The reporter made not a very small mistake: it should have been 3 per cent. gain of organic matter.

Transactions of the Essex Agricultural Society for 1843.—We are indebted to Hon. Allen Dodge for this valuable report, for which he has our thanks.

COL. JAQUES' REMARKS AT THE FOURTH AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

To the Editor of the New England Farmer:

Dear Sir—Agreeably to request, I herewith send you the substance of the remarks made by me at the Fourth Agricultural meeting in Boston, with some few additional suggestions.

SAMUEL JAQUES.

Ten Hills Farm, near Boston, Feb. 2, 1844.

One great object of these Agricultural Meetings, is, to interchange views of opinion, and thereby gain information from each other, upon the great interests of Agriculture. I shall therefore, confine my remarks mostly to my own practice.

On the subject of rearing calves, I differ somewhat from the mode which had been presented by the gentlemen who have preceded me. To make the most of my calves, I allow them to suck the cow for the first three or four months. Calves dropped in the Spring, I keep in the stable, the first summer, leading them to the cows morning and evening; by this means I obtain better forms, broader loins and hips, with fuller bosoms; giving greater weight to the most valuable parts. At about two months old, they would begin to eat hay and drink water; and at four months, would feed so well, that if then taken from the cow, and well fed, there would be very little, if any, falling off, in their condition. But if fed upon *skim milk porridge*, only, as some gentlemen state, as being their practice, and turned to pasture the first season, I think they are more inclined to be narrow in their loins and hips, and become pot-bellied; defects which they seldom wholly outgrow. It has been said that our neat stock have degenerated; no wonder, if they have been brought up upon *skim milk porridge*. If there is *no* profit in keeping animals *well*, there is *less* in keeping them *poor*. In wintering stock, in our climate, Cows in milk, and oxen daily worked, should have comfortable warm lodgings. Yearlings and two year olds, will sometimes do well to run out, where there are convenint barn-yards, and sheds, with mangers underneath, adjacent to the barn, with a door left open. With this arrangement you will seldom find the animals in the stable. The same remark will apply to the Horse, whose limbs are badly swollen by hard driving; giving what is called a winter's run, and taken up in the spring with proper treatment, has a remarkably good effect. Milch Cows should have a regular and kind system of treatment in their management. They should be milked at stated times, and if convenient, always by the same person. When milking is commenced, it should be done with as much despatch as possible, consistent with mildness; and be sure

not to stop until they are cleanly milked. I prefer milking, after they have been fed and have done eating, when in the stable. Let no movement be made to excite them, or draw off their attention from yielding down their milk; this kind of treatment will add much to the quality of milk. Good water, easy of access at all seasons, is highly important to most of our domestic animals. For two or three of the first days after a cow calves, in cold weather, I do not allow her to have any cold water. I give her water about milk warm, with a handful of wheat bran to a pailful. For the loss of appetite of either horn cattle or horses, I give what is termed a warm mash, made as follows; two quarts of oats, two quarts of malt, and two quarts of wheat bran put in a pail, well mixed, then pour scalding water until moist, cover the pail with a cloth let it remain until it is about milk warm, then give it. If for a horse having a cough, put in two table spoonfulls of honey. I have seldom known this mash fail of producing the desired effect. Some care should be taken that the animal does not take cold after taking the mash. If necessary three mashes may he given, missing one day between each. In November last, I had a very fine Cow, giving about twelve quarts of milk per day, very suddenly she dried up to two quarts per day; her eyes became dim, ears hung down, and she refused to eat. I was at a loss to know the cause. I thought it might be the horn ail, or garget. I split the under part of the end of her tail, took off an inch of the bone; put about a gill of spirits of turpentine in the hollow, back of the horns and about the roots of the horns, gave her half a pound of sulphur and half an ounce salt petre, put a piece of garget root in her dewlap near the bosom, as a rowell, and gave her a warm mash. In a very few days she appeared perfectly well, and gave her usual quantity of milk.

Many lives have been lost by vicious Bulls, from a want of knowledge in their management. They are very averse to having their horns handled, as indeed do all horned animals, but particularly the Bull; their horns being their weapons, they seem to consider it as an assault, if you put your hands on them; frequently passing your hand up and down under their throat to their bosom, appears very grateful to them. At the age of about six months, every Bull kept to breed from, should have a ring put into his nose. This may be easily done by making him fast in a stall, so that he may be approached in front; take a strong rope, and in the centre form a clove-hitch, throw it over his horns, drawing tight; take one part of the rope, and form a half-hitch round his nose, drawing that tight also, then make the end fast to the right, a little in front of the animal, pursue the same course with the other part of the rope, making it fast to the left, in the same manner; thus you have the Bull perfectly secure for ringing. Have a pointed iron bolt about one inch in circumference, in the form of a marlin spike, very sharp at the point; take the Bull by the nose with your left hand, with your thumb and finger, you will find between the nostrils where there is little or no gristle, pass the point of your bolt through this part, making the hole a little larger than the ring.* The ring is made with a tenon and mortice, with a screw for a pin; draw your bolt from the nose, and put in your ring, put in the screw, and the job is done. By attaching a small rope or chain to the ring, the animal is easily controlled. Avoid making the rope or chain permanently fast, as he may suddenly pull back and tare out his nose. For the more perfect security, where Bulls are turned loose, they should have a leather blinder placed before their eyes. See annexed cut.

This blinder is made in the following manner. Take a piece of oak board one inch thick, 4 inches wide, and about 20 inches long. Nail to this board a piece of pliable Cow or Horse hide upper leather, which will set close to the animal's face. Should it be necessary, side pieces may be added, also a strap and buckle to pass round the lower part of the blinder, and buckle loosely under the chin.

This method I have long practiced. I have turned out three or four vigorous Bulls at the same time, with my Cows and Oxen, and have found them very timed and harmless, even to fences. To be deprived of sight, causes the most vicious, whether man or brute, to be perfectly inoffensive.

* Rings for this purpose can be purchased at the Agricultural Rooms, Boston, kept by Joseph Breck & Co.

THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, for the week ending Feb. 4.

Feb. 1844.		7 A.M.	12, M.	5, P.M.	Wind.
Monday,	29	*1	4	1	N. W.
Tuesday,	30	*6	6	8	N. W.
Wednesday,	31	0	3	1	N. W.
Thursday,	1	8	20	19	N. W.
Friday,	2	22	36	30	E.
Saturday,	3	24	31	28	N.
Sunday,	4	12	25	24	N.

*below.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, Feb. 5, 1844.

Reported for the N. E. Farmer.

At Market 580 Beef Cattle, 1125 Sheep and 200 Swine.

Prices.—*Beef Cattle.*—We quote to correspond with last week, viz: a few extra $4 75 a 5 00, first quality $4 25 a $4 50, second quality $4 00 a $4 25, third quality $3 50 a $4 00.

Sheep.—We quote lots from $1 50 to $2 00. Wethers from $2 50 to $3 75.

Swine.—A small lot to peddle at 4 1-4 for sows, and 5 1-4 for barrows. At retail from 4 to 6 1-2.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

Corrected with great care, weekly.

SEEDS. Herds Grass, $2 37½ to 2 62 per bushel. Red Top 45 to 50 cents. Clover—Northern, 00 to 12c.—Southern, 10 a 12 c. Flax Seed, $1 50 per bushel. Lucerne, 33 c. per lb. Canary Seed, $2 75 per bushel.

GRAIN.—In consequence of the severity of the weather, prices have further slightly improved. There is no grain afloat, and the transactions of the week have necessarily been limited. The supplies in store, held by first hands, being small for the season.

Corn—Northern, new, bushel 00 to 00—Southern, round yellow, old, 00 a 00—Southern flat yellow, new, 52 a 00—do. do. white 50 a 00—do New Orleans, 00 a 00—Barley 00 a 00 —Rye, Northern, 67 a 68—do. Southern, 63 a 65 —Oats, Southern, 30 a 32—Northern do. 34 to 35—Beans, per bushel 1 00 a 1 62.—Shorts, per double bush. 30 a 40—Bran, 20 a 23.

FLOUR.—The market has been somewhat affected by the harbor being closed, which has prevented the arrival of expected surplies. A channel through the ice being now completed, and the weather continuing mild, will enable all the shipping in the outer harbor to come in.

Baltimore, Howard Street, 4 mos. cr. $5 00 a 5 12½—do. wharf, $4 87 a 5 00—do. free of garlic, $5 00 a 5 12½—Philadelphia do. 4 mos. $4 87 a 5 00 —Fredericksburg, low l'd 4 mos. $5 00 a 0 00—Alexandria, wharf mountain, 0 00 a 0 00. —Georgetown, $5 00 a 5 50—Richmond Canal, $4 87 a 5 12 —do. City, $0 00 a 0 00—Petersburgh, South side $0 00 a 0 00 —do. Country $4 87 a 5 12—Genesee, common, cash, $5 12 a 0 00— do fancy brands $5 25 a 5 37 — Ohio via Canal, $0 00 a 0 00—do do New Orleans, cash $5 00 a 5 25. Rye, $3 62 a 0 00—Indian Meal in bbls. $2 75 a 2 87.

PROVISIONS. Very little doing the past week, and prices are still in a great measure unsettled.

Beef—Mess 4 mo. new bbl. $7 00 a 7 25—Navy—$6 25 a 0 00.—No. 1, $6 00 a 0 00—do Prime $5 00 a 5 50—Pork—Extra clear 4 mo. bbl. $12 00 a 12 50—do Clear $11 50 a 12 00 do. Mess, 9 50 a 10 00—do Prime $8 50 a 0 00—do Mess from other States,— a — —do Prime do do $0 00 a 0 00 do. Cargo do. 0 a 0 00— —Clear do do $00 00 a 00 00— Butter, shipping, 12 a 14—do store, uninspected, 0 a 00—do dairy, 14 cts. a 17—Lard, No. 1, Boston ins. 6¾ a 7 —do South and Western, 6¼ a 7 — Hams, Boston, 0 a 0 — Southern and Western, 5 a 5½—Cheese, Ship'g and 4 meal, 3 a 4½ —do new milk, 4½ a 5½.

WOOL. Duty. The value whereof at the place of exportation shall not exceed 7 cts. per pound, 5 per cent. ad val. All whereof the value exceeds 7 cts. per pound, 40 per ct. ad. val. and 3 cts. per pound.

There is no material change in this article. The demand is good, and recent improved prices are fully supported.

Prime or Saxony Fleeces, washed, lb. 37 a 41 c.—American full blood, do 35 a 37—Do. 3-4 do 32 a 35—Do. 1-2 do 29 a 30—1-4 and common do 25 a 28 — Smyrna Sheep, washed, 20 a 23— Do. unwashed, 9 a 13 — Bengasi do 6 a 13—Saxony, clean, 00—Buenos Ayres unpicked, 7 a 10— do. do. picked, 12 a 16—Superfine Northern pulled lamb 30 a 35—No. 1 do. do. do. 27 a 30—No. 2 do do do 22 a 25—No. 3 do do do 15 a 18.

HOPS. Duty 20 per cent.

Nothing doing beyond a retail demand. Quantity inspected in this State of the last crop, to 1st January, was 1600 bales.

1st sort Mass. 1843, lb. 6½ a 7; 2d do 4½ a 5. 1842, 0.

HAY, 14 to 16 per ton—Eastern Screwed $10 to 12.

EGGS, 25 a 28.

POULTRY. Turkies per lb. from 9 to 12cts.—Geese common 7 to 9—Bremen 10 to 12—Chickens 6 to 10—Ducks 8 to 10.

SITUATION WANTED AS GARDNER

By a man who understands the management of a Greenhouse perfectly, and the Flower Garden generally. Good references given. Apply to J. BRECK & CO., 52 North Market St. Feb. 7.

A FARM TO LET.

A farm consisting of some four or five hundred acres of land, with a farm house, two barns and other out buildings, will be let for a series of years, "on shares." The soil is naturally good and easy tilled. It may be made highly productive, as by its location any amount of manure may be made from sea weed, sea and marsh mud, and other materials, which are found on the farm. It is situated in the vicinity of the eastern termination of the Long Island Rail Road, four hours ride by the way of the Rail Road to New York and six hours from Boston. The person who applies for it must be a native American, an intelligent and enterprising farmer and a professed christian. No person need apply except such as can bring unquestionable recommendations of his qualifications as are specified.

For farther particulars apply to the editor of this paper, or by letter, *post paid*, directed to JUDSON, ANDREWS & CO., Boston. Jan. 17th 1844.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Rare Character.—A correspondent of the Lynn Washingtonian gives the following account of one of the Marblehead Representatives, Mr Samuel Chinn. "He is 35 years of age—a strong healthy man—and, to use his own language, 'he has neither ache nor pain.' For the last ten years this man has lived on a simple vegetable diet, causing not the voice of mourning among the herds and flocks, which graze peacefully upon the mountain side; and during the last four years he has lived upon nothing but *unground* wheat and fruit. He makes his breakfast of fruit, the other two meals of wheat, patronizing neither millers nor cooks. Last year, he was elected a delegate to the Worcester Democratic State Convention, and with a true democratic spirit, he filled his pocket with wheat, walked to Worcester in one day, (a distance of 58 miles,) attended the convention, and the next day returned home by the same democratic express, having patronized no hotels. He is now ready to walk 75 miles in a day, whenever interest or duty may require it."

"*I Told You So.*"—"Wife! wife! our cow's dead—choked with a turnip!"

"I told you so; I always know'd she'd choke herself with them turnips."

"But it was a pumpkin—a smashing big 'un."

"Wal, it 's all the same. I know'd all along how it would be. Nobody but a ninny, like you, would feed a cow on pumpkins that was n't chopt."

"The pumpkins was chopt. And 't wasn't the pumpkins neither, what choked her: 't was the tray—the eend on't is stickin' out of her mouth now.'

"Ugh! Ugh! There goes my bread tray. No longer ago than yesterday, I told you the cow would swallow that tray."—*Hartford Jour.*

Affecting.—"Everything is arranged for your wedding with Susan Tompkins," said a father to his only son; "and I hope you will behave yourself like a man, Thomas."

The individual addressed was a young man, seated in a chair, despatching a piece of bread and molasses.

His only answer was a sigh, accompanied by a flood of tears.

The parent started, and in an angry voice demanded what objections he could have. "Susan is handsome and wealthy, and married you must be some time or another. Your mother and I were married, and why should n't you be, pray?"

"Yes," finally sobbed Thomas, "but that's a different case: you married *mother*; but I 'm sent out to marry *a strange gal!*"—*Selected.*

A gentleman was joking an honest Hibernian about the many blunders made by his countrymen, and mentioned, in illustration, the two cats that ended a quarrel by eating each other up, leaving nothing but the tips of their tails. "Faith, your honor," says Pat, "an surely that was not a blunder, for it is I myself that once kilt a cat by cutting off her head, and the next day she came in mewing, with her head in her mouth!"

A man with a large wife, has this advantage, that he can see her a great way off.—*Exch. pap.*

[True—and it is sometimes more agreeable to see one's wife *a great way off*, than it is to see her near you.]

Awful Situation.—A notorious tipler, (says the Boston Courier,) in a town not forty miles from Boston, returned home last washing day, with a jug of rum, and pretty well 'corned' beside; and staggering into his wife's domain, mistaking a tub of well warmed water for a settee, suddenly settled himself into it, and became a fast prisoner. In this predicament he called lustily for Nabby. His "gude wife" seeing his *deep* interest in her affairs, seized the jug, danced around the philosopher, pouring the contents over his head, disregarding his beseeching appeal of "Nabby, save it! Save it, Nabby!" to which she replied, "Go it, Joe—long life to your honor," &c.

"Why do you not hold up your head as I do?" inquired an aristocratic lawyer of a laboring farmer. "Squire," replied the farmer, "look at that field of grain: all the valuable heads hang down like mine; while those that have nothing in them, stand upright like yours."

A St. Louis paper tells a story of a disconsolate widower, who on seeing the remains of his late wife lowered into the grave, exclaimed, with tears in his eyes, "Well, I 've lost hogs and I 've lost cows, but I never had any thing cut me like this."

"Patrick, I want somebody to kill my hogs: do you understand butchering?" "Faith, an it 's me that can lend you a hand at the same; but it 's a *boss* you 'll want along with me—for *getting the fur off* is the only part of the business that I understand."

Poverty.—At a late celebration, a poor man who was present offered the following toast: "Here is a health to *Poverty*—it sticks by you when all other friends forsake you."

PATENT CORN SHELLER.

A Corn sheller is one of the most convenient and labor saving implements that the practical farmer has in use. Various machines for this purpose have been invented. It can be used in all cases for large or small sized ears. It is very simple in its construction, and durable in its operation, and no way liable to get out of order; one man can work it to good advantage, though a man to turn, and a boy to feed it, works it much better than one alone. They are so light and portable, as to be easily removed from place to place, and one machine will serve for several families or even the inhabitants of a small town.

For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Nov. 1.

WILLIS'S LATEST IMPROVED VEGETABLE CUTTER.

For sale at the New England Agricultural Warehouse, No. 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston, Willis's Latest Improved Vegetable Cutter. This macnine surpasses all others for the purpose of Cutting Ruta Baga, Mangel Wurtzel, and other roots. The great objection to other machines, is their cutting the roots into slices, which makes it almost impossible for the cattle to get hold of them: this machine with a little alteration, cuts them into large or small pieces, of such shape as is most convenient for the cattle to eat. It will cut with ease from one to two bushels of roots per minute. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

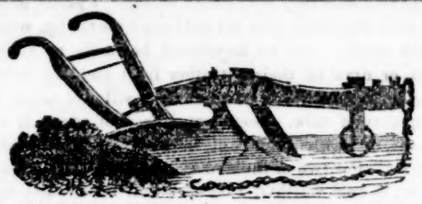
Nov. 1.

DRAFT AND TRACE CHAINS.

400 pair Trace Chains, suitable for Ploughing.
200 " Truck and leading Chains.
200 " Draft Chains. For sale by J. BRECK & CO., No. 52 North Market st.

HARRIS' TREATISE ON INSECTS.

For sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO., Harris' Treatise on Insects. Price $1. Also, the second edition of Dana's Muck Manual, price 62½ cts. Feb. 15.



HOWARD'S IMPROVED EASY DRAUGHT PLOUGH.

Great improvements have been made the past year in the form and workmanship of these Ploughs; the mould board has been so formed as to *lay the furrow completely over, turning in every particle of grass or stubble, and leaving the ground in the best possible manner.* The length of the mould board has been very much increased, so that the Plough works with the greatest ease, both with respect to the holding and the team. The Committee at the late trial of Ploughs at Worcester, say,

"Should our opinion be asked as to which of the Ploughs we should prefer for use on a farm, we might perhaps say to the inquirer, if your land is mostly light and easy to work, try Prouty & Mears, but if your *land is heavy, hard orrocky,* BEGIN WITH MR. HOWARD'S."

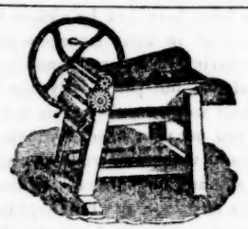
At the above mentioned trial the Howard Plough *did more work, with the same power of team, than any other plough exhibited.* No other turned more than twentyseven and one half inches, to the 112 lbs. draught, while the *Howard Plough turned twentynine and one half inches, to the same power of team!* All acknowledge that Howard's Ploughs are much the strongest and most substantially made.

There has been quite an improvement made on the shoe, or land side of this Plough, which can be renewed without having to furnish a new landside; this shoe likewise secures the mould board and landside together, and strengthens the Plough very much.

The price of the Ploughs is from $6 to $15. A Plough, sufficient for breaking up with four cattle, will cost about $10 50, and with cutter $1, with wheel and cutter, $2 50 extra.

The above Ploughs are for sale, wholesale and retail, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, Nos. 51 & 52 North Market Street, by

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.



GREEN'S PATENT STRAW CUTTER.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, have for sale, Green's Patent Straw, Hay and Stalk Cutter, operating on a mechanical principle not before applied to any implement for this purpose. The most prominent effects of this application, and some of the consequent peculiarities of the machine are:

1. So great a reduction of the quantum of power requisite to use it, that the strength of a half grown boy is sufficient to work it efficiently.
2. With even this moderate power, it easily cuts two bushels a minute, which is full twice as fast as has been claimed by any other machine even when worked by horse or steam power.
3. The knives, owing to the peculiar manner in which they cut, require sharpening less often than those of any other straw cutter.
4. The machine is simple in its construction, made and put together very strongly. It is therefore not so liable as the complicated machines in general use to get out of order.

LACTOMETERS—a simple instrument for testing the quality of milk. For sale by J. BRECK & CO.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER

A WEEKLY PAPER.

Terms, $2 per year *in advance*, or $2 50 if not paid within sixty days.

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TUTTLE AND DENNETT, PRINTERS,
21 School Street.